



The Biscuit Beetle (*Stegobium paniceum*)

Description

The biscuit beetle is 2-3mm long and is dark-matt brown in colour. Biscuit beetles are often confused with furniture beetles/woodworm.

Distribution

The biscuit beetle is found worldwide and is common throughout the UK. It is found in shops and domestic larders infesting a wide variety of food stuffs such as flour, bread, breakfast cereals and other cereal products, beverage concentrates, spices, biscuits, packet soups and drinks.



Life cycle



The female biscuit beetle lays its eggs either in foodstuffs or the surrounding areas. Around two weeks later the eggs will hatch and tiny larvae will emerge and infest foodstuff in the area, often penetrating packaging.

The larvae will live for two to five months where they will continue to grow and moult. Once they have reached a full grown length of 5mm they construct a cocoon around them. This stage typically lasts between 3 and five weeks. On emerging the adult beetles disperse and live without feeding for up to eight weeks. Mating takes place soon after the adult has emerged and the female will then lay her eggs before she dies.

Control Methods

The source of the infestation should be traced. Any affected foods should be discarded. The area should then be thoroughly cleaned, and a residual insecticide which is suitable for 'crawling insects' can be used.

Biscuit beetle can also be associated with birds nests. Nests should be removed and a suitable insecticide used if necessary.

Safety

If you intend to carry out your own treatment read the label of the insecticide container before you buy it to ensure it is suitable for 'crawling insects' – ideally one which specifies biscuit beetles. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully when applying insecticide so that you do not cause harm to yourself, contaminate food, or damage your furnishings.

Services from Us.

The Borough Councils Pest Control Service can assist with the treatment of biscuit beetle problems

- To request our help please call 01782 742590 during office hours or see our website.
- Our current charges are detailed on our website at www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk, or by calling our Customer Services Team on 01782 742590
- Some landlords may pay this charge on your behalf if you live in rented accommodation.
- Our waiting times are typically 3-5 working days.

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